

tent to give general satisfaction, than the members of a Legislature, but one or two of whom are acquainted with the circumstances, and entirely without accountability to those interested.

“There are points where Ferries are now valuable, and a license would be eagerly sought, for a short period, and at a tax important to the finances of the county. Other points there are, where the peculiar location of the country is such, that a nominal tax, and long licenses are necessary to induce the persons to incur the expense of providing the necessary boats and other expenses incidental to the establishment of a ferry, still a few persons would be much benefited by the establishment of a ferry at such a point.

“Both our mothers, Wisconsin and Iowa, have, and do now act on this principle, on all large rivers, to the infinite advantage of their inhabitants; and your committee are clearly of opinion that the same system would much benefit Minnesota.

“Your committee much regret that no principle of the kind could be engrafted on the bill referred to. It appears to have been intended to perpetuate a system of special legislation on the subject of Ferries and Bridges, to which your committee is strongly opposed. Existing instances of the evils resulting therefrom, may now be found on the Mississippi and other streams in Iowa and Wisconsin.

“Failing in their attempt to engraft on the bill the necessary provisions to render it useful to the people, your committee respectfully recommend, as the best means of attaining the object desired, the adoption of the substitute herewith submitted for

“No. 4, C. F. ‘A bill to authorize the establishment of Ferries and Bridges in this Territory.’

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES WELLS,

Committee.”

Mr. Rice moved that fifty thousand copies of the report be printed;

The question being taken,

It was decided in the negative.

On motion of Mr. North,

No. 8, H. of R. A bill for an act to incorporate the University of Minnesota,

Was read the second time by its title, and ordered to be printed and taken up in committee of the whole on next Thursday.

No. 6, C. F. A bill to incorporate the Mississippi Boom Company,

Was taken up, and

On motion of Mr. Trask,

It was read the third time by its title;

The question being put,

“Shall this bill pass?”

It was decided in the affirmative; and the title thereof agreed to.

A message from the Governor, by W. B. White, Esq., Private Secretary.

“MR. SPEAKER:—I have the honor to place in your hands a message from the Governor, in writing.”

No. 4, C. F. A resolution of the two Houses of the Legislature relative to the Annals of the Minnesota Historical Society,

Was taken up; and

On motion of Mr. Wells,

Said resolution was adopted.

The message from the Governor was read, and is as follows:

MINNESOTA TERRITORY, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
St. Paul, February 4th, 1851. }

To the honorable, the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

“SIR:—I return to the House of Representatives, in which it originated, without my approval, a bill entitled ‘an act to dissolve the marriage contract between Silas Henry Axtell and Catharine Maria Axtell,’ presented me on Friday, the 31st ultimo.

“Waiving a discussion of the constitutionality and propriety of Legislative

divorces, I should be derelict to duty, if I failed to notice the entire nakedness and absence of evidence in support of the statement of the petitioner.

“The reports of the Judiciary Committees of the respective Houses, show that on the simple statement of Silas Henry Axtell, unsupported by other testimony, and without notice to his wife, who is now in a distant State, and who might thereby, be irreparably wronged, is predicated the action of the Legislative Assembly.

With great respect,

Your ob't. servant,

ALEX. RAMSEY.”

No. 1, H. of R. An act to dissolve the marriage contract between Silas Henry Axtell and Catharine Maria Axtell;

Returned by the Governor without his signature,

Was taken up;

The question then being put upon the re-consideration of said bill,

It was decided in the affirmative.

And the question then being,

“Shall the bill pass?”

And the ayes and nays being ordered;

Mr. Brunson moved a call of the House;

Which was ordered.

Messrs. Farribault, North and Olmstead, were reported absent.

Mr. Trask moved that Mr. Olmstead be excused from attendance on the House;

Mr. Rice moved to amend,

“That the Sergeant-at-Arms be excused from hunting for Mr. Olmstead;”

Mr. Gilman moved to amend,

“That Mr. Olmstead be excused from attendance on this House for one week;”

Which was agreed to.

The Sergeant-at-Arms reported Mr. North in his seat, and that Mr. Farribault was absent from town.

On motion of Mr. Trask,

That further proceedings under the call of the House were dispensed with.

The question recurring on the passage of,

No. 1, H. of R. An act to dissolve the marriage contract between Silas Henry Axtell and Catharine Maria Axtell;

Those who voted in the affirmative are—Messrs. Brunson, Ford, Gilman, Rice, Sloan, Taylor and Trask—7.

Those who voted in the negative are—Messrs. Ludden, North, Patch, Ramsey, Randall, Warren and Wells—8.

So the House refused to pass the bill.

On motion of Mr. Wells,

The House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1851.

The House met pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the Speaker, *pro tem*.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Hobart.

The roll having been called,

Messrs. Farribault, Ford, Gilman, Rice, Trask and Wells, were reported absent.

There not being a quorum present,

The Sergeant-at-Arms was directed to notify the absent members to appear in their seats.

The Journal of yesterday was then read.

Mr. Randall, from the Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills, submitted the following report: